(b) Under the existing 'scheme of financial support to Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure' of Ministry of Finance, 20% of the project cost of a project being executed in the PPP route is permissible in the form of capital grant at the stage of project construction as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from Minisry of Finance and balance VGF upto further 20% of the project cost can be provided by the sponsoring Ministry/State Government/statutory authority, that owns the project, out of its Budget. The proposal for GOI providing additional 10% Viability Gap support under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission Beyond 20% by Ministry of Finance is under Inter-Ministerial consideration. Mumbai and Hyderabad projects fall under this category.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since VGF is in the form of grant, question of recovery of grant does not arise.

Sky Bus System

523. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have set up a Committee to examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the Sky Bus Metro system in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken so far by the Union Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was set up by this Ministry under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.V. Indiresan, Retd. Director, IIT Chennai to evaluate the Sky Bus System and examine its feasibility and techno-economic aspect. The Committee has submitted its report in August, 2005.

(c) The Committee has treated Sky Bus System as a technology development project rather than finished technology. The Committee, recommended extension of this project as technology development project not merely because of its novelty but also because of possibility of incidental technological benefits that may accrue to the nation through the processes developed in designing and producing the system.

(d) The Ministry of Railways has appointed a technical advisory group with ten eminent members to evaluate the novel system and guide for further development of further technology.

The group has held three meetings so far. Ministry of Railways has also allocated an amount of Rs. 25 crore for conducting further trial of sky bus metro leading to certification of technology under the guidance of Technical Advisory Group.

Central assistance for municipality

524. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Central Government guidelines given in the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), the State Government of Maharashtra had sanctioned for Latur Municipality eight DPRs and the proposals were submitted to the Central Government on 2nd February, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Maharashtra on 28th March, 2006 sanctioned 15 projects for Rs. 264.615 crores for Kolhapur, Sangli, Miraj, Kupwad, etc.;

(c) whether the Central assistance for DPRs for the above two Municipal Corporations and 11 Municipal Councils is pending; and

(d) whether the State Government of Maharashtra are urging to sanction the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) in its meeting held on 8.6.2006 considered 8 development projects in Latur town under Urban Infrastructure Development for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and approved 6 projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 10857.00 lakh and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) amounting to Rs. 4342.00 lakh released by Ministry of Finance on 6th September, 2007. The details of projects sanctioned and released are given in the Annexure.

However, State Government has requested to replace one of the sanctioned projects with another project with same cost. The request of the State Government being not in accordance with the scheme guidelines, has not been agreed to.

(b) to (d) The SLSC in its meeting held on 28.9.2006 approved 15 projects in 13 Towns/ Municipal Corporations/Municipal Councils with a total cost of Rs. 39633.90 lakh involving ACA of Rs. 16448.07 lakh, including incentive and Rs. 9444.33 lakh as 1st instalment of ACA has been released for 14 projects in 12 towns in accordance with the priority provided by the State Government and within the allocation of the funds provided to the State. Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The remaining project of water supply at Jalna town will be considered for release of funds in the subsequent year(s) as per priority of the State Government.